Diversion of foodgrains in Delhi

844. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge stocks of foodgrains diverted by the fair price shops under the Public Distribution System in Delhi have recently been detected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against fair price shop owners and the Government officials involved in this scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A raid was conducted by the Food and Supply Department, Government of NCT of Delhi on 18.02.2008 at two godowns situated at Shop No. 3 & 4, F-Block Market, Dakshin Puri, Delhi and approximately 2175 bags of Specified Food Articles (SFAs) meant for TPDS were found lying in them.

(c) All the concerned FPSs and godowns were immediately sealed and subsequently licenses of 11 FPS have been suspended by the concerned Assistant Commissioner. An FIR was lodged with the police on 19.02.2008 and five persons have been arrested in the case.

Malls and retail stores in the country

†845. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of malls and big retail stores opened in the country during the last two years;

(b) the location of these malls and retail stores;

(c) whether small time shopkeepers have suffered due to opening of these malls and retail stores; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made to ensure the livelihood of the small time shopkeepers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Organised retailers register their shops/malls with concerned authorities in States/UT Governments in respect of the commodities to be sold by them. The Central Government do not maintain data in this regard.

(c) and (d) The share of organized retailing in the total retail trade is very small. No studies have been carried out in the past to assess the impact of opening of malls and big retail stores on the small time shopkeepers. However, the Government has awarded a study to International

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) to assess the impact of organized retail on small retailers and vendors in the unorganized sector keeping in mind the likely growth in the overall market and effect on employment.

Reduction in quota of foodgrains for Sikkim

846. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains being provided to the people of the country particularly in Sikkim State:

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has reduced the present quota of foodgrains *i.e.* rice, wheat, pulses, kerosene, etc. for the Sikkim State;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken, so far, by Government for increasing/restoration of foodgrain quota for Sikkim State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Under TPDS 119.36 lakh tons of wheat and 273.14 lakh tons of rice have been allocated to States/UTs during 2007-08. Out of this, Sikkim has been allocated 4509 tons of wheat and 41283 tons of rice.

(b) to (d) The details are as follows:

(i) Foodgrains: There has been no change in the quota of allocation of foodgrains for the Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) categories, which are being made @ 35 kg. per family per month for the number of households on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 and the population projection of Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued by each State/UT, whichever is less.

The allocations of foodgrains for the Above Poverty Line (APL) families have been rationalized, keeping in view the availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool, w.e.f. June, 2006 and April, 2007 respectively, for wheat and rice respectively on the basis of offtake figures for the previous year i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06. But, in view of peculiar circumstances of NE States and Sikkim APL rice allocation was increased by 1.5 times w.e.f. July, 2007 for these NE States and Sikkim, subject to their entitlement.

Presently, the State of Sikkim is being allocated foodgrains for all accepted number of AAY, BPL and APL families as per their entitlements.

(ii) Pulses: No allocation is made of pulses under TPDS from the Central Pool.

(iii) Kerosene: Kerosene (SKO) is one of items distributed through Public Distribution System (PDS). Allocation of PDS SKO is made by the Government of India to different States/Union Territories (UTs) on a quarterly basis for distribution under